GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1271
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
INDO-EU TRADE
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any talk with the European Union to bring about concensus on the proposed Indo-European Union trade and investment agreement;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the agreement; and

(c) the progress so far made in that direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Yes Sir. The 7th India-EU Summit at the level of our Prime Minister and the Presidency of the European Union was held in October 2006 at Helsinki.A High Level Trade Group which had been established between India and EU to explore the possibility of a bilateral broad based trade and investment agreement submitted its report to the Summit. The Summit agreed that both sides move towards negotiations for such an agreement.Formal negotiations on the agreement commenced on 28th June 2007 at Brussels.

(b)&(c) The first round of negotiations were focused on discussing the framework for undertaking negotiations and exchange of ideas on the broad contours of the agreement in areas of Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investments, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Customs Cooperation and Trade Facilitation. Based on these initial discussions, both sides agreed to prepare textual proposals for further discussion in the 2nd round of negotiations that are scheduled to be held in October 2007.